

## Message Text

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53

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 IO-13 SCA-01 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /042 W  
----- 044466

R 100733Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 442

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FOR D/HA, SCA, NEA, L, IO, H

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINTS, PORG

SUBJ: ACCESS TO DETAINED AMERICAN CITIZENS

REF: STATE 269864

1. DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY AWARE FROM ARREST CASES REPORTED, MOST RECENTLY CASE OF ROGER MARION GIBBONS, THAT SYRIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT ALWAYS NOTIFIED EMBASSY PROMPTLY OF THE DETENTION OF U.S. CITIZENS AND ALLOWED PROMPT CONSULAR ACCESS AFTER NOTIFICATION. AS OPPORTUNITIES HAVE ARISEN, EMBASSY HAS POINTED OUT TO SYRIAN AUTHORITIES PROMPT NOTIFICATION AND CONSULAR ACCESS IS ESSENTIAL AND NORMAL INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION AND ASPECT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

PROBLEM STEMS IN PART FROM ABSENCE OF CONSULAR TREATY BETWEEN SYRIA AND U.S. (SYRIAN OFFICIALS ARE RELUCTANT IN PRACTICE TO RECOGNIZE VALIDITY OF OLD US-FRENCH TREATY) AND FACT SYRIA IS NOT SIGNATORY TO VIENNA CONSULAR CONVENTION.

2. MOST RECENTLY, SCA ADMINISTRATOR WALENTYNOWICZ DURING VISIT TO SYRIA DISCUSSED ABOVE QUESTION WITH DEPUTY FONMIN. LATTER WAS RECEPTIVE TO PASSING ON  
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TO HIGHER AUTHORITIES NEEDS FOR PROMPT NOTIFICATION

AND CONSULAR ACCESS. MEETING WAS FOLLOWED UP WITH  
AIDE MEMOIRE.

3. ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT COULD SUPPLY ON POSSIBILITY  
OF NEGOTIATING BILATERAL CONSULAR TREATY OR HOW SYRIAN  
ADHERENCE TO VIENNA CONVENTION MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED WOULD  
BE APPRECIATED.

PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, CITIZEN PROTECTION, DETENTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC07703  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760419-0260  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761163/aaaaccwe.tel  
**Line Count:** 69  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION L  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 269864  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 AUG 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <31 MAR 2004 by hartledg, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <13 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ACCESS TO DETAINED AMERICAN CITIZENS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PORG, US, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006